

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 040902

44

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SSO-00 USIE-00 PA-01 /016 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:FDEMARZO

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY

USIA/IEU:SDEMITZ

CU/IAP:ROJONES (SUBS)

CU/EE:WTPRYCE (INFO)

----- 046987

O P 201613Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 040902

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR, US (KING, LARRY)

SUBJECT:GOVERNOR BROWN AND LARRY KING: WORLD TEAM TENNIS  
PROPOSAL WITH SOVIETS

REF: MOSCOW 2320; MOSCOW 1993; (75) STATE 184648;  
BENSON-DEMITZ TELECON (2/18/76)

1. DEPT (EUR/SOV) AND USIA/IEU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH  
LARRY KING OF WORLD TEAM TENNIS (WTT) AND WITH STANLEY  
MALLESS, PRESIDENT OF THE US TENNIS ASSOCIATION (USTA).  
WE UNDERSTAND SITUATION TO BE THAT SOVIET SIDE WANTS  
FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE LONDON-BASED INTERNATIONAL TENNIS  
FEDERATION (ITF), WHICH ITF HAS NOT, RPT NOT,BEEB WILLING  
TO GIVE FOR WTT-SOVIET MATCHES. AS EMBASSY MAY BE AWARE,  
SPORT OF TENNIS BESET WITH FACTIONAL RIVALRIES, BOTH ON  
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND AT DOMESTIC LEVEL IN SOME  
COUNTRIES. CURRENT SITUATION REFLECTS THIS FACT.

2. REGARDING DETAILS OF PARA 2, REFTEL B, WE HAVE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 040902

FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFO: US TENNIS ASSOCIATION (USTA),

OF WHICH MALLESS IS PRESIDENT, DID SEND TELEGRAM TO SOVIET SOVIETS FEB 4, STATING USTA HAD "NO OBJECTION" TO THE PROPOSED MATCHES IN MOSCOW. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPTOFF, MALLESS INDICATED USTA POSITION IS THAT US-SOVIET

MATCH IS FINE IDEA, BUT IT IS ARRANGED BY WORLD TEAM TENNIS (WTT) DIRECTLY WITH SOVIETS. IN USTA'S VIEW, BOTH PARTIES SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED THE PROBLEMS OF "OFFICIAL APPROVALS" BY THE VARIOUS SPORTS BODIES BEFORE THEY SIGNED AGREEMENT IN DECEMBER. EMBASSY CORRECT ON POINT OF FEBRUARY 5 TELEGRAM FROM USTA TO SOVIETS. USTA CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION, AND SIMPLY RESTATED THAT POINT IN FEB 5 CABLE. THE FEBRUARY 11 MEETING MENTIONED IN REFTEL B WAS A MEETING OF THE AMERICAN TENNIS "FAMILY" AND NO ITF REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT. USTA WILL BE MEETING WITH DEREK HARDWICK, PRESIDENT OF ITF, WEEKEND OF FEB 21. WHILE THIS MEETING IS FOCUSED ON OTHER MATTERS, THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT US-SOVIET MATCH WILL BE DISCUSSED. DEPT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT ON FEB 17, ITF SENT CABLE TO SOVIETS WITH NEGATIVE MESSAGE ON SOVIET REQUEST FOR FORMAL APPROVAL. DEPT ATTEMPTING TO GAIN MORE INFO ON THIS.

3. WE HAVE NOT, RPT NOT, BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ITF, AND DO NOT BELIEVE IT WISE TO ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE BETWEEN US CONSTITUENT BODY (USTA) AND WORLD GOVERNING BODY (ITF). WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONE OF THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH WTT PROPOSAL IS THAT MOSCOW MATCHES WOULD BE HELD UNDER ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL RULES, BUT RETURN MATCHES IN US WOULD BE UNDER WTT RULES, WHICH ARE NOT THE ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL RULES ENDORSED BY ITF. THE WTT RULES EMPLOY THE VAN ALLEN SIMPLIFIED SCORING SYSTEM.

"

4. FYI: POSSIBLE REASONS FOR SOVIET DESIRE FOR ITF APPROVAL MAY STEM FROM FACT THAT SOVIETS ARE ALL TECHNICALLY AMATEUR PLAYERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITF. ITF IS CO-ADMINISTRATOR OF LONDON BANK ACCOUNT WHEREIN ALL FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNED BY SOVIET PLAYERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 040902

IN INTERNATIONAL MATCHES IS DEPOSITED, AND THEN DIRECTLY CHanneled TO THE OTHER CO-ADMINISTRATOR, THE USSR SPORTS FEDERATION. THEREFORE, FROM THE SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, ENDORSEMENT FROM ITF IS ESSENTIAL.

5. ANOTHER FACTOR INVOLVED IS CURRENT NATURE OF PROFESSIONAL TENNIS IN US AND WESTERN EUROPE. ITF HAS, RPT HAS, REACHED WORKING AGREEMENTS WITH A NUMBER OF

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS GROUPS IN THE WEST. A PRIME CONSIDERATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE QUESTION OF SCHEDULING OF MAJOR TOURNAMENTS, AND HOW US OR WESTERN EUROPEAN PROMOTERS HAVE SCHEDULED THEIR OWN TOURNAMENTS IN RELATION TO ITF-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS.

WORLD TEAM TENNIS (WTT) HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL "CONFLICTS" WITH THE ITF, AND THESE MATTERS MIGHT ALSO BE UNDERLYING CURRENT ITF RELUCTANCE TO SANCTION THE MOSCOW MATCHES.

6. DEPT DOES NOT KNOW THE POSSIBLE EXTENT TO WHICH SOVIET SIDE HAS MADE ANY APPROACHES TO ITF. DEPT UNDERSTANDS FROM LARRY KING THAT SOVIET SIDE HAS BEEN PHONING WTT ON DAILY BASIS, TO SEE IF WTT AND/OR USTA CAN HELP GAIN ITF APPROVAL. AT THIS POINT, WE HAVE NO, RPT NO, IDEA WHETHER MALLESS WILL PUSH FOR ITF APPROVAL AT FEB 21 MEETING WITH HARDWICK. MALLESS IS AWARE OF EMBASSY'S/DEPT'S INTEREST IN MATTER, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE STAYED CLEAR OF APPEARING TO BE ADVOCATE OF WTT POSITION. BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION, BALL WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN SOVIET COURT IN TERMS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH ITF.

7. GOVERNOR BROWN CURRENTLY TRAVELING IN EGYPT. LARRY KING IS HANDLING LOGISTICS FOR WTT. KING MENTIONED TO DEPTOFF THAT DURING FALL 75 MEETING WITH GOVERNOR BROWN, AMB. DOBRYNIN INDICATED HIS STRONG INTEREST IN THE MATCHES, AND ALSO EXPRESSED WISH TO ATTEND THE FINAL MATCH IN INDIANAPOLIS.

8. ON SEPARATE MATTER OF PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN EVENT MATCHES TAKE PLACE, KING HAS EXPRESSED TO DEPT HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 040902

CONCERN ABOUT HOUSING FOR US GROUP IN MOSCOW. AS EMBASSY MAY KNOW, DECEMBER AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOVIET SPORTS FEDERATION AND WTT CALLS FOR SOVIETS TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR US TEAM. KING IS CONCERNED THAT SOVIETS MAY NOT FULFILL COMPLETE US REQUIREMENTS ON HOUSING, AND CITES HOUSING DIFFICULTIES "TEAM CANADA" GROUP ENCOUNTERED IN 1972- KING MENTIONED THAT HE AND AMB. STOESSEL HAD DISCUSSED THIS DURING KING'S DECEMBER VISIT. KING HAS ASKED IF EMBASSY HAS ANY SUGGESTIONS ON HOUSING QUESTION? KING INDICATED THAT US GROUP HAS ALREADY APPLIED FOR SOVIET VISAS AND GROUP EXPECTS TO ARRIVE MOSCOW MARCH 6.

9. ROSTER OF US GROUP AS FOLLOWS:  
LARRY KING AND BILLIE JEAN KING; ROSEMARY CASALS;

MONA SCHALLAU GARRANT AND HUSBAND; VITUS GERULAITIS  
AND FATHER; ALEXANDER MAYER AND FATHER; EARL BUCHOLTZ;  
AND MARTY RIESEN. TOTAL 11 PERSONS.

10/ PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MATCHES AS FOLLOWS:  
MARCH 8 AND 9 IN MOSCOW; RETURN MATCHES IN US SCHEDULED  
FOR PHILADELPHIA MARCH 13, CLEVELAND MARCH 14,  
AND-(NDIAN8P&LI5-  
AND INDIANAPOLIS MARCH 15. AS EMBASSY AWARE, LARRY

KING INTERESTED IN ARRANGING JULY 4 MATCH IN MOSCOW,  
AS A POSSIBLE FURTHER STEP.

11. IN CONVERSATION WITH USIA/IEU, LARRY KING ALSO  
INDICATED INTEREST IN HAVING A SHORT MESSAGE FROM AN  
APPROPRIATE US OFFICIAL TO HAVE PRINTED ON THE PROGRAMS  
FOR THE MATCHES HELD IN THE US. DOES EMBASSY HAVE  
ANY COMMENT ON THIS IDEA? INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE040902  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FDEMARZO  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760064-0443  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760229/aaaaayzc.tel  
**Line Count:** 187  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MOSCOW 2320, 76 MOSCOW 1993  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OVERNOR BROWN AND LARRY KING: WORLD TEAM TENNIS PROPOSAL WITH SOVIETS  
**TAGS:** OEXC, UR, US, (KING, LARRY)  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006